January 2, 1956

A STATEMENT OF BELIEFS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

By the Subcommittee on Objectives

Tri-County College Study Committee

I. Beliefs

1. The Committee believes that the fundamental responsibility for the education of their children lies with the residents of the Saginaw Valley themselves, and that socially and morally this responsibility extends beyond the high school level.

2. The Committee believes that the area generally referred to as the "Saginaw Valley", comprising at least the three participating counties, possesses a common heritage in history, geography, and social custom and thus fulfills the basic requirements for establishing and maintaining an institution of higher learning to serve the needs of its populace.

3. The Committee believes that the establishment of such an institution of higher learning would also fulfill a need of the entire area for a common center for the cultural activities of all of our citizens -- such as music, drama, art and lectures. Thus the college will become a center for those cultural activities in which all three communities can work together.

4. The Committee believes that the establishment of an area college would require the approval of the qualified voters of the three counties, both to provide for its initial establishment and to assure continuing, long-term financial support.

II. General Recommendations on the Scope of the College.

1. It is recommended that all committees base their long range studies on the establishment of an institution of higher education of the highest excellence.

2. It is recommended that the ultimate objective of the institution be a four-year liberal arts college, but that we begin by merging the two-year college programs now offered or proposed within each separate county, subject to expansion at a later practical date, to a full four-year degree-granting institution, at the discretion of the governing body of the college. This seems the most economical and flexible form to meet the needs of the area. The traditional arts-college curriculum prepares students to go directly into business and many other fields, and it offers the best education for personal development and citizenship. It is prerequisite for admission to graduate work in law, medicine, science, and other fields. After two years students might transfer to colleges offering more specialized curricula, too expensive for the local college to offer. After three years students might transfer to certain professional schools, like engineering, and thus secure two degrees in five years.

3. It is recommended that this college also provide two-year terminal curricula in semi-professional and technical fields such as agriculture, homemaking, business practice, drafting, and other subjects for which sufficient demand exists or develops.

4. It is recommended that college-level evening courses be provided. Such evening courses may on occasion offer subjects for day students that may not otherwise be available.

III. Specific Committee Recommendations.

A. Committee on Need

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Need explore the future requirements for courses as outlined under the General Recommendations on the Scope of the College.

2. It is recommended that the Committee on Need also explore the necessity and feasibility of cooperative courses combining college study and work experience in business, industry, agriculture, and other activities.

3. It is further recommended that the Committee on Need concentrate its studies on the best available estimates of present and future needs of this area for higher educational facilities. The Committee's estimates of land needs should reflect the probability of substantial future expansion in education, and related cultural and other fields.

B. Finance Committee

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Finance consider three main sources of revenue for the operation of the college to be established, in approximately equal shares: (a) student tuition fees; (b) contributions from the State of Michigan; and (c) area taxation.

2. It is recommended that the approximately one-third of operating expense tentatively to be provided by area taxation not be included in the present 15 mill limitation.

3. It is recommended that the issuance of bonds be considered for the establishment of physical facilities for the college, this revenue to be secured outside the 15 mill limitation and to be repaid by area taxation.

4. It is recommended that the Committee on Finance consider and formulate a higher tuition fee for students not residing in the taxed area, this higher fee to include (a) a charge for costs otherwise paid by area taxation, and (b) a charge for capital expense write-off.

C. Committee on Legal Basis and Organization

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Legal Basis and Organization devise a plan for the election, by the qualified voters of the three counties, of a governing body or board of trustees consisting of 9 to 15 members for the proposed institution.

2. It is recommended that the governing board of the college be advised by a body composed of persons appointed by the municipal or county boards of education, or both, in the three counties concerned, as determined by the Legal Committee.

3. It is recommended that the Committee on Legal Basis and Organization study the means of obtaining state aid as indicated under B. 1 above, as well as the question of obtaining state aid for initial capital investment as indicated under B.3.

4. It is recommended that the Committee on Legal Basis and Organization make a study of the effect on the college project of the present state laws governing the establishment, support, and operation of a college of this nature, and of such other laws as may be pertinent; and that the Committee take such steps as may be fitting and proper to secure the passage of such enabling legislation as may be found necessary.

5. It is recommended that the Committee on Legal Basis and Organization devise a plan to place before the qualified voters of the three counties (a) the question of the establishment of the proposed college, and (b) the taxation measures necessary to establish and support it.

6. It is recommended that adequate provision be made for the acceptance of gifts, grants, bequests, and other gratuities.

D. Committee on Location

The following recommendations to the Committee on Location are made in what the Objectives Committee believes to be their order of importance:

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Location select a setting for the college in an area distinctly apart from existing communities.

2. It is recommended that the area to be acquired for college use be adequate for long-term growth probabilities and zoning provisions.

3. It is recommended that the college location be roughly in the center of the area served.

4. It is recommended that the Committee on Location also consider the availability of adequate drainage, sewage disposal, public utilities, access roads, and water supply.

E. Committee on Geographical Area

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Geographical Area determine the extent to which the three counties concerned may be considered a single community, now and in the future, with the probable ability to establish, support, and operate a college.

2. It is recommended that the Committee on Geographical Area assemble such information as it may develop or find available to support the belief that the Saginaw Valley area can function as a unit to support a tri-county college.

3. It is recommended that the Committee on Geographical Area also consider the Saginaw Valley from the viewpoint of the surrounding regional area to be served.

F. Committee on Public Information and Student Affairs

1. It is recommended that the Committee on Public Information and Student Affairs, through and with the cooperation of the public information media available in the area, endeavor constantly to keep the public informed of plans, developments, progress, and problems connected with the tri-county college study.

2. It is recommended that the Committee on Public Information and Student Affairs develop and make available to these area information media such educational materials as may be helpful and necessary in achieving the goal of an informed public as regards the present project.

3. It is recommended that the several committees of the Study, both members and chairmen, cooperate actively with the Committee on Public Information and Student Affairs in obtaining the widest possible recognition and understanding of the goals and methods used in pursuit of the College Study.

This committee is most grateful for the enthusiastic help of Mr. Ferris Crawford, of the many members of the committee of 300, and of other citizens of the valley area, who have offered opinions, comments and suggestions during the course of our work on this project.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. Collings

W. R. Collings
Chairman, Committee on Objectives

For the Bay County Objectives Committee:

Mrs. Charles Thompson

Mrs. Charles Thompson, Chairman

*

Mr. Oscar Anderson, Co-chairman

For the Midland County Objectives Committee:

Joseph P. Closs

Mr. Joseph P. Closs, Chairman

Mrs. T. A. Kauppi

Mrs. T. A. Kauppi, Co-chairman

For the Saginaw County Objectives Committee:

Thomas J. Brennan

Rev. Fr. Thomas G. Brennan, Chairman

Peters Oppermann

Mr. Peters Oppermann, Co-chairman

*Mr. Anderson left before the meeting ended.